

Twenty-eight Parrot with Abnormal Beak.—I am sending you the head of a Twenty-eight Parrot which was shot near the house. It was feeding in the grass with about half a dozen other parrots. We were surprised to see the abnormal growth of the beak and wondered how it managed to feed itself to grow to maturity. As can be seen the upper part of the beak has curled right under to the throat.

—R. BENSON, "Ferndale," Kirup.

The specimen forwarded, the head of a Twenty-eight Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius semitorquatus*) is illustrated herewith by Mr. H. O. Webster. Similar instances of abnormal growth of the beak are known from various species of birds, the growth being often consequent on injury to the tip of the beak. The interest of the present case is that the abnormality, extreme though it appears to



be, did not prevent the bird from surviving in the wild state, though evidently the bird must have restricted its feeding to items which did not require the use of the tip of the bill.—EDITOR.

Drinking Habits of Common Bronzewing.—That Bronzewings (*Phaps chalcoptera*) drink night and morning is well-known to sportsmen and to bushfolk. Likewise the fact that pigeons, unlike most other birds, take a long draught after the manner of a horse is widely known. Gilbert White mentioned this peculiarity of pigeons in his *Natural History of Selborne*. Nevertheless the following observations made at the Bilbarin town dam, may prove of interest.

The birds observed usually alighted in the forest surrounding the dam and walked over the bank and down to the water's edge. When departing in a normal manner the birds usually flew from the edge of the water but occasionally a bird would walk to the top of the bank before taking wing.

The following is a record of birds watched at sunset on January 1 and 2, 1947:

Bird A.—First draught, untimed; second, 9 seconds.

Bird B.—First draught, 4 seconds; second, 4 seconds.

Bird C.—Fed by water. Not seen to drink.